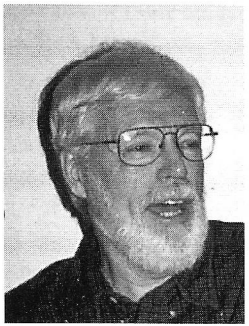
Fred Headon Earns MMR 328



Louis Marx and Christmas 1950 lead Fred Headon into model railroading. Soon a bedroom-encompassing layout of 0-27 track emerged complete with additions of both Marx and Lionel locomotives and rolling stock and some Gargraves track. About the same time Fred's initial railfan forays began with a focus on the nearby Canadian Pacific Railway.

During his mid-teens he somewhat foolishly sold those original items, but with a bit of wisdom invested the proceeds in HO equipment. Fred's activity in the hobby fluctuated in his youth, and was followed by time spent establishing a career, marrying Jessie, (his most understanding and supportive wife) and raising a family. Opportunities for more participation in the hobby were somewhat limited as the couple's three children grew into their own activities. Still, he consider himself fortunate as each child continues to express and demonstrate an interest in model railroading.

When choosing a prototype for modeling Fred was overwhelmingly influenced by being raised in close proximity to both the CPR's Weston Shops and their Arborg sub, a branch line that began as the original alignment for the company's transcontinental mainline in the early 1880s. That background has not precluded adding interests in the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie and in the Canadian National Railways with both now coming on stage as interchange traffic during operating sessions. Summers spent in the nearby Canadian Shield established the locale for his railway. He say's, however, this choice offers too little of his prairie home. His initial awareness in ferroequinology—the transition days at the end of steam and the onset of diesel—frames his era.

His introduction to the Achievement Program came with the receipt of a volunteer certificate for his efforts in Railway Jamboree '83. The program really began to beckon after retirement from 35 years as an educator (mainly high school geography). Post-retirement was the time to spruce up some elements on the model railway and have them judged for the Master Builder-Scenery and Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical certificates. Time also became available to serve the Thousand Lakes Region as Secretary, qualifying him for an Association Official certificate. He now also had time to offer some material for the written records of our hobby including *The Fusee* of the TLR, *Railroad Model Craftsman, Canadian Railway*